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BONAIRE The REPORTER



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Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone/WhatsApp (+599) 796-4055,
www.bonairereporter.com email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com



L-R: Echo, Mangrove Maniacs, STINAPA, STCB and Reef Renewal Photo: Julie Morgan

Building a shared future for all life – Biodiversity Day 2022

Lac Cai was alive with many of Bonaire’s nature organizations that gathered to celebrate International Biodiversity Day (IBD) on May 22. It was kind of a one stop shop to learn, visit and be inspired with Bonaire’s important organizations that work to keep our island’s diverse nature in check. People could chat with Echo, Donkey Sanctuary, Mangrove Maniacs, Reef Renewal, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Tera Barra, Wild Bird Rehab, World Wildlife Fund and of course STINAPA and their Junior Rangers.

Guided boat and kayak tours in the mangrove and Lac Cai areas were available for visitors to experience and learn about the area firsthand. A little theater area was set up with looped videos about the work done by the different nature organizations.

International Biodiversity Day was established in 2000 by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the Earth’s ongoing biodiversity issues and create an understanding of the challenges required to sustain them.

Mangrove Maniac Arno Verhoeven said, “Biodiversity is the most important thing about nature. Many people don’t realize biodiversity is in almost every aspect of our life – fish, agriculture, our oceans, forest and every life form including humans. It creates a healthy system. If we lose one specimen, we think it’s not important but it brings the ecosystem out of balance. It literally collapses the system and humanity.”

According to the UN, three quarters of the Earth’s land-based environment and 66% of our oceans have been severely changed due to human activity. A recent report by the UN said that more than one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction. Conservation of all the earth’s species is vital to ensure our survival.

The clock has run out on many of our species. This is difficult to believe but the UN’s report shows that three species disappear every hour, from 100 – 150 species disappear every day and from 15,000 to 80,000 species

disappear every year.

Bonaire and its people are a part of the three billion on the Earth that depend on marine and coastal biodiversity to make a living. That is just how important biodiversity is. Our lives depend on it.

“Pollution, climate change and all the rapid growth on our island have brought the systems under intense pressure. We have to find the balance. People need to be made aware and take a deeper look as it is virtually a part of everything. When we talk about food, agriculture and economics, we need to consider biodiversity; the nature on Bonaire is never far away,” said Verhoeven. “Whether you are a nature lover or not, you have to know Bonaire is unique and in many ways Bonaire is still pristine. We have a strong conservation on Bonaire, better than on any other island.”

Everyone can be a part of helping sustain Bonaire’s diverse flora and fauna. There is something for everyone.

Echo – www.echobonaire.org

Mangrove Maniacs -www.mangrovemaniacs.org

Reef Renewal – www.reefrenewalbonaire.org

Tera Barra – www.terabarra.com

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire – www.bonaireturtles.org

Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire – <https://www.donkeysanctuary.org>

STINAPA – <https://stinapa.bonairenaturefee.org>



Tera Barra

Biodiversity, continued on page 4

The Hague targets same social support for BES as European Netherlands

In the coalition agreement that joined the BES Islands to the Netherlands as a municipality, The Hague promised the islands eventual social support comparable to those in Europe. Recently announced budget decisions affirm that progress to that goal is continuing.

This cabinet says its main goal for the Caribbean Netherlands is to improve living standards and combat poverty. It intends to assure all residents of the Caribbean Netherlands a livelihood by reducing costs and increasing incomes.

Minister Carola Schouten (Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions) has announced that, starting in 2023, the government will structurally invest an additional 30 million in Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius. In addition, the departments themselves will also contribute in combating poverty. This amount will be increased year by year to EUR 12 million structurally in 2025.

State Secretary Van Huffelen said, "Life in the Caribbean Netherlands is expensive. The costs for drinking water, electricity, telecom and housing are high. For many people, it is difficult to make ends meet. With this investment, we can first of all ensure higher incomes and benefits, and lower monthly costs. In concrete terms, this means, for example, increasing benefits and the minimum wage, but also reducing the cost of living, such as drinking water and energy costs. Together with the government, I will continue to make efforts to ensure that daily life becomes more affordable."

The government intends to build the island economies with the goal of achieving, by 2025, a legal minimum wage and benefits that equals in the European Netherlands social minimum. At that point, people in the islands and in Europe would be protected by comparable structural social support benefits.

In the meantime, targeted subsidies will continue to be used to meet immediate social needs in the islands. Roughly 40% of island households will be eligible for a one-off energy supplement. The amount for a single person living independently in the welfare system will gradually increase. Gradual increases in the child benefit will begin on July 1, 2022. A regulation establishing unemployment benefits will be introduced. Subsidies will be available for drinking water,



Minister Carola Schouten (Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions) with members of the Executive Council and staff.

construction of public housing, and increasing people's employability.

EUR 35 million will be invested in the preservation of nature and the environment during this cabinet period.

The free allowances paid to the public entities themselves will increase substantially. By 2025, the island governments will structurally receive €13 million more in resources for island tasks, as well as €10 million for incidental backlogs. *DMR*

smaller and more exclusive type of tourism on the island. It would also set precedents for building higher on the island and crowding more units onto relatively small building sites.

Thielman and den Heyer voted against approval while commissioner James Kroon and island Governor Rijna voted for it. The Governor can assure the permit gets approved on another vote if he wants. He is allowed a second ballot to break ties. Thielman and den Heyer believe a majority of the Island Council would not support the permit. They point out that, if Rijna breaks the tie and pushes the permit through despite considerable opposition, Kroon would be the only elected councilor to have voted favor in of it.

Bonaire's low skyline has long been maintained by precedent, not regulation. For decades two stories was widely believed to be the maximum allowed building height on the island. Then three story buildings suddenly appeared. Soon four stories became the maximum supposedly allowed, all without public discussion. Critics say that approval of only a single five-story building now would almost assure a new, higher precedent for the island. *DMR (BESreporter, Bonaire.nu)*

Bopec still a possibility for container port

The Reporter has learned that Bonaire's future container port may not be located at Hato after all. According to Executive Council member Hennyson Thielman, Bopec is still under consideration. The financial implications of a Bopec facility are being seriously studied. Opening a container port is an immediate priority for Bonaire because of the extra costs incurred when goods are imported through Curaçao. Problems at the Port of Curaçao, including labor disputes, have also disrupted deliveries to Bonaire. *Julie Morgan.*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 15

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 Phone (+599) 796 4055
 Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Julie Morgan, Publisher
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Jane Madden-Disko, Don M. Ricks, Malcolm Wilson, Ann Joseph, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Monique Degenaar, Brian Niessen, Alan Zale, Dana van de Wiel, Kaj Schut, Reed Sealy, Paul Ruijs, Daria Taiakina and Caroline Walta, Shelly Craig
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Bonaire has a new tourist tax as of July 1

After the new tourist tax was passed by the Island Council, critics objected to the amendment that visitors be taxed upon every arrival, rather than just once a year, as provided in the proposed legislation. They felt that was a major last minute change that had been adopted without sufficient thought and discussion.

The OLB has responded in a press release: "The regulation and the amendment that together establish a new tourist tax for Bonaire were adopted by a majority of votes in the Island Council meeting of April 12. After the ordinance and amendment were voted on, questions arose about the process and whether it was done correctly. As a result, legal advice was requested. The legal investigation has shown that the process followed is correct. The Island Governor as chairman of the Island Council and the Clerk subsequently signed the new by-law and the amendment. The regulation and amendment have since been published." *DMR*

New Sunset Beach building request splits Island Council

Hennyson Thielman and Nina den Heyer have said they will resign from the four-person Executive Council if the Council approves a building permit requested by Sun-set Beach Resort. The resort wants to add a fifth story to its hotel, which would be unprecedented on the island. The Space & Development department has ruled the Executive Council has authority to approve the permit.

Thielman and den Heyer say approving the building permit would not be consistent with the Executive Council's vision for a

Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of May 16 - 23, 2022

30 active cases (-22)	2 hospitalized 30 deceased
In the week of May 16, the incidence of active cases decreased - 30 versus 88 in the week of May 2.	

Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

Museums transform the world around us

International Museum Day, May 18, was observed on Bonaire at the island's most well-known museums: Chichi Tan, Terramar, Mangazina de Rei, Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) and Museo Boneiru.

The worldwide theme for International Museum Day was "Museums have the power to transform the world around us." Bonaire extended the celebration of art and culture museums to include May 19 and 20.

The opening was held at Terramar Museum with a talk by George 'Cultura' Thode, head ranger at WSNP. Workshops were held at the different museums for employees and others who wanted to learn more about the art, cultural artifacts and a bit of history. The

three-day event ended with a closing celebration at Museo Boneiru with local music, drinks and speeches by organizers including Felix Thomas, director of culture (SKAL).

Bonaire actually has 10 different museums but unfortunately many people aren't aware of this. The full list includes: Washington Slagbaai National Park, Chichi Tan, Mangazina de Rei, Terramar Museum, Kadimo, Tanki Maraki, MiCuna, Fuhikubo, Rooi Lamunchi and Museo Boneiru. Each one is different and unique holding its own history and artifacts. *The Reporter* is going to explore each one in the next few months so everyone can enjoy the culture and rich art of Bonaire.

Story and photo Julie Morgan



The ProKids are back

Sixty-five enthusiastic kids competed in windsurf and sunfish events during the 18th edition of the Prokids Mega Sport Event at Sorobon the weekend of May 20 -22, 2022.

At the official opening Saturday morning the athletes were cheered on by Phar Martha of Telbo and Gissette Emers who represented deputy of sports. President of Stichting Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers, Licetha "Liesje" Saragaoza and the general coordinator Derchlien Vrolijk began the skippers meeting and started the races.

After some great racing and great fun, the event closed Sunday with an awards ceremony. TELBO director Gregory Colina spoke to the competitors and helped award the prizes.

The ProKids organization is grateful to all those who came to Sorobon to support and encourage the athletes. They also thank the volunteers, the team of BSSA who put the event together and the sponsors: INDEBON/OLB, Krioyo Paint, Fundashon Wega di Number Boneiru, TELBO NV, Budget Rent a Car.



Caylen Allee sails into second place in the Super Kids boys division qualifying him for the Aruba Hi-Winds beginning May 25. Photo Julie Morgan

Winners:

Prokids Bo Baby Class: 1e Day Tervoort, 2do Scott Tervoort, 3er Xavier Pineda

ProKids, continued on page 4

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POLICE REPORT

Property crime

May 13. At around 12:30 p.m. the police station received a report of a burglary at a company in the Nikiboko district.

Arrests

May 19. Around 12:50 a.m. the police station received a report of a fight in a bar/restaurant in Kralendijk. A man, 47, was arrested for assault with a weapon.

May 18. A man, 32, was arrested for assault and trespassing.

May 17. KPCN, in collaboration with KMAR, took action against the sale of narcotics from a home in Antriol. Two narcotics buyers were arrested and a search was initiated. Money and narcotics were found and seized and three other suspects were arrested in the house. The investigation in this case is being conducted by the criminal investigation department, KPCN, RST and KMAR.

May 16. A man, 19, was arrested for failing to comply with an official police order and carrying a weapon in public.

May 13. During the night hours around 2:30 a.m., a man, 41, was arrested at a house on Kaya Jean. B.F. Vitte for assault, theft, destruction and violation of the Opium Act BES. The suspect was arrested earlier in the evening in the Kaya Grandi for violation of the Opium Act BES. He then assaulted a woman. A cannabis plant was found near the home and seized along with several other items.

May 9. In the afternoon hours a man, 33, was arrested on Kaya Maximiliana Rosario for drunk driving. The man was stopped because he was swinging on the road. Based on the result of his a breath analysis, the man was banned from driving for 15 hours.

Traffic accidents/violations

May 22. Around 3 a.m. a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was subjected to a breathalyzer and was arrested for driving under the influence.

May 18. Around 11:50 a.m. the police station received a report of a Hit and Run in a parking lot of a commercial institution on Kaya Korona.

May 15. Around 3 p.m. A car and scooter collided near Te Amo Beach. The scooter driver lost control after the vehicle in front of it suddenly stopped. The scooter driver sustained injuries and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

May 14. At about 3:40 a.m., the police station received a report of a single vehicle collision at Kaya International near Marriott. The vehicle hit a lamppost. The driver of the vehicle suffered facial and arm injuries and was taken to hospital by paramedics for further medical treatment. CRS, WEB and the traffic department of the police also arrived on the scene. The collision is being further investigated by

the police traffic department.

May 11. Two cars collided on Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. Because one of the victims was trapped in the car, the fire brigade also arrived on site to get the victim out of the car. The victim was stable. Because the road had to be closed, traffic from Rincon to Playa was temporarily diverted.

May 7. Around 4:25 a.m. on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt the driver of a car swerved from a puddle of water, lost control of the wheel, crashed into a lamppost and came to a stop on the car's head. The driver was believed to have been under the influence of alcohol but was unable to take a breathalyzer because he was being treated by paramedics and was then taken to hospital. Because all the cables came loose due to the collision against the lamppost, the WEB was also notified.

Traffic control

May 13/14. Three fines were issued for, among other things, driving without a driver's license.

May 9. Traffic checks were held in various districts to check valid documents (driver's license, insurance certificate, road tax) of vehicles and drivers. During the checks, six vehicles were checked, of which two drivers received a police report; one for driving without a valid driver's license and one for driving without insurance. On a positive note: many drivers had their records in order.

Public safety

May 19. Around 8:35 a.m., the police station received a report of a lifeless body in a Rincon home. The forensic department investigated and the medical examiner has determined a natural death of the 69-year-old man.

May 17. At around 5:55 p.m. the police station received a report of vandalism. The resident reported that two glasses of his back door were smashed with a stone.

May 16. At around 8:05 p.m. the police station received a report of a threat with a knife at a bar/restaurant in the Antriol district. The police have included a witness statement from a customer and a report from the victim of this threat.

May 16. At around 10:55 a.m. the police station received a report from Dierenbescherming about a seriously neglected dog at a house in the Antriol district. The dog's owners had received multiple warnings from Animal Protection, but no action was taken to improve the dog's situation. As a result, the dog was confiscated by the Animal Protection. KPCN provided support during this promotion.

May 14. At around 4:50 p.m. the police station received a report of a diver who had been missing for more than 15 minutes. The missing diver was diving with two other people near Alice in Wonderland. After the two divers lost sight of the third diver, they raised the alarm and

Ask Kate & Jean Bonaire real estate advice

Do I need a property manager if I don't rent the property when I am not using it? I am going to buy a condo and I don't have to be on the island for the deed transfer and the monthly HOA fee includes the garden-er and pool service. My friend said I need one, but I don't see the point. Ella

Hi Ella,

You will need someone to turn on the utilities, cable and internet in your unit if you are not going to be on island for the closing. This is done in person on Bonaire, you cannot call and switch the service to your name. It is also a good idea to have someone stop by the property regularly to ensure there are no leaks or damage to your unit. Depending on how long between your visits, your Airco units may need to be turned on peri-



L-R: Jean and Kate

odically, and cleaned every six months. In case of a problem inside your unit, you will have someone to call who can schedule and supervise a repair. You can discuss with a property manager how often you want service and what the charge would be.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team
Re/Max Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

called the police. The police subsequently informed the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, Customs and the Coast Guard and conducted a search near the place where the diver was last seen. About half an hour after the missing diver was reported to the police, the diver was seen and found near the coast.

May 10. Around 2:45 p.m. the police station received a report about a diver who had gotten into trouble near the Bulvar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The man was in pain for unknown reasons when he came ashore. The paramedics tried to resuscitate the man but to no avail. A little later, the medical examiner declared the 64-year-old diver dead.

Fire

May 19. Around 6:40 a.m., the police station received a report from security officers at a catering facility in Kralendijk about a strong smell of fire. Police

and fire brigade immediately rushed to the spot. The police closed the road in Kralendijk as a precaution. The fire brigade then carried out a check at the buildings from which the strong fire smell came, but there were no details.

May 15. Around 7:15 a.m. the police station received two reports of a fire at an asphalt machine. The fire had spread from the exhaust of the asphalt machine to the fuel tank. The fire brigade arrived on the scene and extinguished the fire.

Contacting the police

Have you witnessed a suspicious situation? Do you see suspicious behavior or a criminal offense happening? Do you need immediate help? Report it to the police. Call:

911 (urgent or red-handed)

717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)

9310 (anonymous tip line)

Biodiversity, from page 1

STINAPA Junior Rangers –
Facebook @JuniorRangersBonaire
Wild Bird Rehab –
Facebook@Bonairewildbirdrehab
WWF Dutch Caribbean –
Facebook@wwfdutchcaribbean

Other important nature organizations to learn about are:

Wild Donkey Protection League
bonairedonkeyprotectionleague.org/
and
Wild Conscience –
<https://www.wildconscience.org>

(info credited to: www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day)

Story and photos Julie Morgan

ProKids winners, from page 3

New Kids Girls: 1e Robyn Nicolai, 2do Jamielee Lammers, 3er Lovesssa Soechit
New Kids Boys: 1e Eugendrick Dirksz, 2do Igor Alberto, 3er Justin Obispo

Super Kids Girls: 1e Lorelei van Deursen, 2do Molly Muller, 3er Zara Friederichs

Super Kids Boys: 1e Kick Schut, 2do Caylen Allee, 3er Barrie Sassen

Junior: 1e Terance Seraus, 2do Jean-

karl Mayer, 3er Luca Davidsson
Women: 1e Monique Meyer, 2do Koleta Abrahammsz, 3er Nasja van Loon

Men: 1e Elton 'Taty' Frans, 2do Juvannie Agostien, 3er Terence Bernabela

Sunfish B: 1e Willem Stolk, 2do Dedrie Pedersen, 3er Bert Pol

Sunfish A: 1e Robbert Verboon, 2do Sipke Stapert, 3er Alexander Tromp

Look for more photos of ProKids on our FB page...

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

FUNDASHON CAS BONAIRANO

Subject: solution-oriented proposal for tackling public housing problems

Kralendijk, Bonaire May 12, 2022

Dear Members of the Island Council and the Executive Council,

Fundashon Cas Bonairiano is at the heart of society and, in accordance with its statutes, should not operate for any other purpose than in the interest of public housing. To achieve that goal, FCB maintains close ties with all stakeholders and does everything in its power to achieve it.

In the past period it has become apparent that there is a scarcity of affordable housing for the inhabitants of Bonaire. FCB would like to bring this to your attention by means of this letter and at the same time make a proposal for the inventory and implementation of possible solutions, so that they can be submitted to the Island Council and the Executive Council.

Introduction and problem statement

Bonaire wants to grow while preserving nature, culture and the individual character of the island and has drawn up a plan for its development in which the territory is determined and space is offered for desired developments. That spatial development plan is currently being revised.

In this spatial development plan, the spatial conditions must be created for preserving a healthy living environment, including by safeguarding natural and recreational space in accordance with the future size of the population.

Due to the limited space on Bonaire, the pressure will increase on nature to make way for homes. In the opinion of FCB, this is an undesirable development as nature is the only wealth that Bonaire has, is the basis of our tourist economy and distinguishes us from other islands. In short, without nature there are no tourists.

There is a scarcity of affordable housing on Bonaire, which affects the current residents of Bonaire the most, because as a result of this scarcity they are 'displaced' from the housing market by persons or investors who often do not live on Bonaire and who buy the houses on Bonaire with usually the purpose of (recreational) rental. The purchase is seen as a good investment with a good return, because the money in the bank yields no or negative interest.

As a result, these homes 'disappear' from the 'normal' housing market. The prices of owner-occupied homes are being pushed up in this way and are therefore unreachable for many Bonaireans with an average income. The waiting list in the social rental sector is long. As a result, throughput on the housing market is very limited.

In general, current housing projects that are put on the market do not make any contribution to solving the shortage of affordable housing. This is with the exception of FCB's projects.

The CBS forecast shows a population growth on Bonaire from about 7,000 to 2050, with a population growth of only 1,000 in the period 2030-2050. This population growth will increase the current shortage on the housing market. Regulation is therefore necessary to keep our island habitable for future generations.

Solution

Our aim is to achieve a balanced distribution of the scarce living space and to offer all groups of home seekers the opportunity to find suitable accommodation. We assume that this is a common goal and that the Island

Council and the Executive Council endorse this goal.

We see a solution to achieve the goal by realizing the following two (2) things in conjunction.

Firstly, we believe that it is desirable to draw up a Housing Ordinance, which stipulates, among other things, that a housing permit is required for occupancy of owner-occupied homes up to a certain purchase price and rental properties up to a certain rent. This prevents scarce homes from being used as investment objects and contributes to ensuring that scarce homes become and remain available to meet the need for affordable housing on Bonaire. The need to draw up a Housing Regulation is not new. During the process of drafting new legislation and regulations regarding the (rental) housing market in the Caribbean Netherlands, a draft housing regulation has already been drawn up. This lays the foundation for the introduction of a permit system for rental and owner-occupied homes. The draft Housing Regulation is now somewhat outdated and must be adapted to current developments and needs.

In the Housing Regulation, concrete considerations can be made about the scope of a permit requirement for the use or allowing the use of homes in certain categories and/or at certain locations. Although we realize that this limits the freedom of owners and investors to use homes in the most profitable way (for example, only for recreational use), we believe that the public interest on Bonaire and the scarcity of homes make these measures necessary. The implementation of that framework will of course require careful consideration of the interests of all stakeholders involved, also in order to create the desired support for such measures.

In addition, we believe it is worth considering setting up a 'Public Housing Fund' to be able to fund social housing (partly) from that fund and perhaps also housing in the middle category. This fund could be fed by contributions from, among others, project developers or perhaps even part of the proceeds from real estate-related taxes. In this way, less profitable or perhaps even unprofitable developments of necessary housing can be paid for.

Realization of solutions

As FCB, we are happy to take the lead in further exploring and concretizing the aforementioned solutions together with all stakeholders, and then present them to the Island Council and the Executive Council.

In that context, we think it makes sense to also involve the expertise in this area present in the European Netherlands. Hence our request if your ministry could support us in this.

We would like to hear if you have any suggestions that can be included in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B.O. Oleana

Director Fundashon Cas Bonairiano (FCB)



To: Fundashon Cas Bonairiano
ATTN: Mr B. Oleana

Thank you very much for your letter dated 12 May 2022 in which you call on our Executive Council, among other things, to come up with a concrete approach together with you and other stakeholders for undesirable developments on the housing market. You are right to draw attention to the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult for local home seekers to find suitable/affordable housing, not only in the social sector, but increasingly also in the so-called middle segment. This is also a very worrying situation in the eyes of the Executive Council.

We share your analysis that there is displacement due to pricing. This development has been our focus for some time for several reasons. If nonresident people buy houses that are only occupied for a limited part of the year, this also has adverse consequences for social

cohesion and therefore for the quality of life in neighbourhoods. That is why a start has been made with an enforcement process in neighborhoods where homes are wrongly used for recreation.

We have recently started exploring what other instruments we can use to regulate the housing market in such a way that local home seekers with a low to middle income get a fair chance.

Without regulation, building will not be the solution. We are therefore in discussion with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Seen in this light, the arrival in June of the Minister for Public Housing and Spatial Planning is important.

A settlement ordinance as suggested by you in your letter is certainly a good idea. Your other suggestion to set up a 'public housing fund' is an interesting one and certainly worth further exploring.

As far as we are concerned, we will meet as soon as possible to discuss the solutions you have suggested and to see how we can arrive at a concrete approach in cooperation with stakeholders, such as the Ministry.

Once again, thank you for your initiative. It has been taken from our hearts and comes at the right time.

Signed:

The executive council of Bonaire

The Lieutenant Governor

The Island Secretary

Recommendation to government of Bonaire: Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire and Bonaire Donkey Protection League (BDPL) need to join forces.

We need to protect Bonaire's special, historic Nubian donkeys. We need to protect them and manage them correctly and not eliminate them or enclose them in an unnatural area. Professionals in the animal world have said this, according to BDPL in a press release. According to these professionals, the correct solution to do this is for Donkey Sanctuary and Bonaire Donkey Protection League to join forces. They recommended this to the government of Bonaire.

BDPL writes: "Because Bonaire's special, historic Nubian donkeys are a big part of our heritage, loved by people, with economic value and international interest, the professionals made the recommendation to Bonaire's government. They find that the Donkey Sanctuary should care for the donkeys that are sick and injured and that BDPL should manage those that are in nature."

Safe Area

BDPL explains that Donkey Sanctuary has the ability to treat sick and injured donkeys, while at the same time there is a team of nature, animal and land management professionals to protect and correctly manage 'our special historic donkeys' in nature.

According to BDPL, the correct solution, approved by various experts in the animal world, is to "remove the donkeys from the populated areas and the streets of Bonaire and take them to safe remote areas. This can be done in a quantity that will not damage the environment, but is actually beneficial to the environment. The donkeys will continue to be monitored and their population controlled in a humane manner. This will not be done by the barbaric method of castration."

Anyone that wants to help can make contact with BDPL at bdplf@hotmail.com or call 785-22-5 or the donkey hotline 785-7111.



No one on Bonaire has asked Breemhaar to destroy Plantation Bolivia and build 1,900 houses there

Published first May 15, 2022 in *Joop.nl*, an opinion platform in the Netherlands read often by Dutch politicians.

<https://www.bnnvara.nl/joop/artikelen/neokoloniale-quote-miljonair-wil-natuur-bonaire-vernietigen>

Colonialism in a new jacket

Colonialism is the phenomenon that countries (usually of Western European origin) dominate overseas territories and the populations in those territories for economic, strategic and/or political considerations with the intention of earning money and/or protecting interests. From the 17th until well into the 20th century, the Netherlands owned large overseas territories: the Dutch East Indies, Suriname and the colony of Curaçao. The Netherlands created the conditions, the trade with which a lot of money was made was left to companies and/or private individuals who made extensive use of enslaved Africans. The Netherlands owes its present wealth largely to its colonial past.

Against this background, let's consider the situation regarding Plantation Bolivia on Bonaire. The area is located in the northeast of the island, is approximately 3,000 hectares in size, forms 10% of the island, with the coastline of 15 km adjacent to currently untouched coral reef. The zoning of the area is 'open landscape', in order to preserve the open landscape and natural values for now and future generations. So it is not allowed to build.

The plantation was bought at the end of 2019 for 12 million dollars by the Dutch Quote 500 millionaire Breemhaar. It soon becomes apparent that Breemhaar does not actually know what he has bought. In an interview with *De Telegraaf* at the beginning of 2020, he calls his purchase 'a devastated area'. He does not know that he owns the largest dry tropical forest of the Antillean islands, which is assessed by Wageningen University, among others, as an ecologically valuable area with a unique landscape. He does not know what he has bought, but he does know what he wants to do with it: earn a lot of money by 'developing' the area. A euphemism for clearing out vegetation and building. He wants to make a profit of at least 100 million, he confides to someone. This is also apparent when he



declines an offer of 24 million from an American, who wants to leave it natural.

Breemhaar manages to convince the politically responsible commissioner of his intentions. He does this by presenting a plan that he knows will be well received. With social housing, nature development, cycle paths, vegetation restoration and agricultural activities. However, the plan is full of inaccuracies and also contains untruths. An example is his claim that he will build on 10% of the area and that 90% will remain a natural area. The commissioners give in and the lieutenant governor will even sign a letter of intent with Breemhaar in February 2022. Two years earlier, the same governor stated in an interview with *Trouw* that he is concerned about the balance between the economy and nature on the island, explicitly mentioning 'developers who are making plans to build on open areas'. Why did the lieutenant governor change his opinion? Well, who knows, may say so.

What Breemhaar really wants will become apparent in April 2022. We managed to get hold of a housing survey that

was reported on his behalf in September 2021 and which was kept secret. It states that he will develop 700 hectares of the 1,900 hectares that can be developed (almost 37%!) by building 1,900 homes in the middle and high price segment. In addition, it appears that the main ecological structure (corridor) of the island is going to be destroyed and that he wants to build houses above the caves of Spelonk and Roshikiri in which drawings of the first inhabitants of the island have been preserved. Social housing has disappeared and there is no word left about nature restoration and conservation.

No one on the island has asked Breemhaar to destroy Plantation Bolivia and build 1,900 houses there. The development of the area is also not necessary, according to the (draft) Spatial Development Plan. There are sufficient locations on the island that are suitable for new homes to meet the housing need, taking into account the population growth up to 2050. And yet Breemhaar continues his plans and manipulates the board and the island council members in the direction of his plans towards a change of zoning

with shiny leaflets, smooth talk, urban planners flown in from the Netherlands (and perhaps also a few pieces of silver).

Breemhaar buys almost 3,000 hectares of 'open landscape' on an island 8,000 kilometers away from his Western European hometown for pennies on the dollar. He sees his chance to earn a lot of money by destroying the largest dry tropical on the Antillean islands, building almost 2,000 homes that no one has asked for and that will be bought by rich Americans and Europeans because they are too expensive for the average Bonairean. If that's not neo-colonialism?

Nature is the only 'wealth' that Bonaire has, the basis of the tourist economy and distinguishes Bonaire from other islands. In short, without nature no tourists, no income for now and future generations. Can we prevent the future of Bonaire from being colonized? Sure! First of all, it is up to the commissioners of the island and the members of the Island Council. They can block the change of zone to housing by not cooperating. Hopefully they are aware that there will be elections early next year and that Bolivia could play a very important role. But the parliament in The Hague also has the opportunity to protect nature on Plantation Bolivia and to stop Breemhaar's plans. Nature and the environment represent a supra-local interest and that, in addition to the obligations under various treaties, makes the European Dutch government responsible for their protection. In short, responsible that sufficient natural and recreational space is secured in accordance with the future size of the population.

The most important question we need to ask ourselves is, are we good ancestors? How do we want future generations to look back on us?

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

www.saveplantationbolivia.com

Wilma Nijland

Bolivia development challenged in parliament

The parliamentary group Party of the Animals has declared its opposition to the plan of Bonaire Properties NV to build almost 2,000 homes and the necessary infrastructure on Plantation Bolivia. The group believes the area should be designated a nature area in the spatial development plan.

Three MPs, Lammert van Raan, Eva van Esch and Leonie Vestering, put their written questions to the ministers Hugo de Jonge (Public Housing and Spatial Planning), Mark Harbers (Infrastructure and Water Management) and Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink (Nature and Nitrogen). They asked the ministers to prevent development of the area if necessary. The concerns raised by the parliamentarians are familiar on the island. They pointed out that . . .

The Bolivia plantation area covers 10% of Bonaire, houses the largest rare tropical dry forest in the Antilles (3000 ha), and is the island's only natural corridor. It is also especially important to traditional Bonaireans.

Bonaire Properties NV intends to build almost 2,000 homes and the necessary infrastructure in the coming decades in the vulnerable nature reserve. The group says the spatial development plan already provides development opportunities where the infrastructure is present and nature would be less impacted.

The group points out that scientific research reports state that, given its ecological and cultural value, Plantation Bonaire is irreplaceable and that it must be protected.

The group urges the ministers to prevent damage to nature in the Bolivia plantation area, or to prevent nature from being lost, in consultation with the Public Entity Bonaire.

The questioners also wanted to be informed about the progress of the development so far. What was the content of letter of intent the Public Entity Bonaire signed with Bonaire Properties NV on January 26, 2022 regarding the development of plantation Bolivia? What process and timeline was agreed to? Has a project plan already been submitted and/or is there already clarity about possible permits, such as a felling permit for (part of) the tropical dry forest? If so, can you share this with the House?

The group asked if Plantation Bolivia is part of Washikemba-Fountain-Onima,

which has been designated an IBA (Important Bird Area) but is not protected as such? How will the building plans at Plantation Bolivia affect the adjacent coastline, consisting of 15 kilometers of coral? Will the development include protection for the caves with rock paintings, made by the Caiquetío around 1,000 BC, and other archaeological sites be found on plantation Bolivia?

The questioners also asked the ministers, "Are you prepared, if necessary, to use your power on the basis of the Act to issue an instruction (with regulations) regarding the content of the spatial development plan to be adopted . . . in such a way that Plantation Bolivia is protected?" *DMR*



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Vertical gardening

A love for gardening but a lack in garden space can be frustrating. Even for me with plenty of space for gardening, I always have a need for more space. In fact for a garden lover, there is never enough gardening space. There are so many plants that I would like to have in my garden but no place to put them all, especially when it's a plant with special space needs. In my travels, I have learned so many things in each field of gardening. I always visit garden centers, botanical gardens, green parks, indoor green shopping centers, urban agriculture markets and, if possible, farms. In a way, I learn way more than through books. To see, feel and hear experiences from others, gives deeper knowledge. This creates bigger triggers and creates new challenges.

I have some nice information picked up from other countries for garden lovers with a tiny garden or no garden space at all.

I'm talking about vertical gardening. This just might be your thing. Vertical gardening is for inside and outside. You can work with hanging baskets, plant bags and other type plant containers. A vertical garden is not only cool and nice



A vertical gardening can be planted both inside and outside.

but also practical. Plants grow vertical in height, which is a solution for gardeners with less gardening space. The vertical garden gives the possibility to place plants, flowers, vegetables and herbs on a

spot which normally one does not use for anything else. The material of the vertical garden makes the difference for style and maintenance.

There are many materials and styles:

- Rattan, leather, metal, wood, polyester, glass and stone.
- Different colors and heights
- Easy to move because they are not permanent.
- Strong, durable, sustainable.
- They can be hung almost anywhere, even on lamp posts, trellises, pillars, beams, mailboxes, deck railings and on roofs.
- Plant bags and planters have their own handles, so all you need are wall hooks or nails to hang them.

Some hints for this healthy growing environment:

- A vertical herb garden just beside your kitchen is handy
- Add plants that flower year round.
- Keep in mind the location regarding full sun on your plants. Shade is important to avoid fast drying dirt.
- Fertilizer is important for container plants especially hanging containers that receive more exposure.
- Make sure that beams, fences, railings or other structures can support the weight of plants.
- This kind of gardening is a great solu-

- One can also change his garden wall.
- Its a nice way to freshen up the patio, to color the garden entrance with flowers and you can pick vegetables and herbs from the wall.
- Vertical gardening makes gardening possible and easier for handicapped people like those in a wheel chair.
- For children, the generation of the future, this will be a new way of living with urban sustainable agriculture. We are their teachers. Teach them to do so, for a healthy future in their hands.

Plant your own food sustainably and close by and make use of every possible space there is for it.

So, it's time to experience the new garden challenges coming up. Its so cool, just do it.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

Join the Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon 2022

Like many of Bonaire's fundraisers for special causes, the Walkathon for Special Olympics took a break in 2021 due to Covid -19. But this great event is back and the organizers and previous participants are counting the days till the Walkathon on Sunday, June 5.

For the last 19 years locals and island guests alike have laced up their shoes and traversed 30 km (18.64 mi) on foot or bicycle to support the Bonaire Special Olympics Walkathon.

The 2020 Walkathon saw over 600 participants and this year promises to attract similar numbers and hopefully even more.

The Walkathon route begins at the white slave huts and finishes at FKDP, Kaya Encarnacion R. Sintiago in Rincon. Participants are asked to congregate at the Kralendijk Municipal Stadium for free transportation to the starting point. The first bus departs at 4 a.m. and the last bus departs at 4:30 a.m. for the 5 a.m. Walkathon start. At the end of the trek a bus will be waiting at the finish to return participants and their bicycles to Kralendijk stadium.

Along the 30 km route, stations will be set up with water, fruit and "pan dushi" to help keep everyone hydrated and refueled.

For the love of our island environment and the planet, the organizers urge everyone to be mindful and not pollute our roads with water bottles, but leave them at the various water stations or deposit in

SUNDAY JUNE 5TH 2022

19TH EDITION WALKATHON

T-SHIRT PICK UP DATE: 3RD & 4TH JUNE

TIME: 17:00 — 19:00 FRIDAY

TIME: 10:00 — 16:00 SATURDAY

PLACE: EL MUNDO

Join us to help raise funds for Special Olympics Bonaire. Lets walk to make a difference.

START AT: "The white slave huts" 5 am finish at Pasadia Karino Rincon	INCLUDED: T-shirt, water, fruits And at the finish a small breakfast	CONTACT PERSONS: Pamela +(599) 795-4043 Rolanda +(599) 9 525-7080 Earon +(599) 796-0909
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the trash bins along the route.

Directional flags will be posted throughout the Walkathon so you won't get lost. The Red Cross, selected Walkathon board members and volunteers will be on hand to keep everyone safe.

Walkathon sign-up for the event will be at El Mundo June 3, from 5 – 7 p.m. and Saturday June 4, from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. The cost is only \$15 and that includes a swag bag with a cap, T-shirt and water bottle.

Anyone interested in assisting in the Special Olympics Walkathon is welcome and can do so by contacting Pamela +599-795-4043; Rolanda +599 9 525-7080 and Earon +599-796-0909.

Special Olympics sponsors. The Walkathon is one of several activities that generate funds for the non-profit Special Olympics organization. In addition to this fundraiser, the organization relies heavily on its sponsors. One of the biggest supporters and sponsor for the past 12 years is Digicel. The company believes strongly in the cause and what it means for Bonaire's special needs athletes.

Other long-standing sponsors of Special Olympics Bonaire are Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire and Guardian Group.

For this 19th edition, additional sponsors are MCB, Ennia and NAPA.

Special Olympics is an international organization that prepares children and adults with intellectual disabilities to compete in various sports disciplines. All funds raised through the walk are used to prepare the athletes and pay travelling expenses whenever they compete internationally. The next international event on their calendar is the Special Olympics World Games in Germany 2023.

Julie Morgan



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr



Julie's porcupinefish friend's jaw was being pinched by a snorkel keeper when they met. When she left, she brought the snorkel keeper with her but the porcupinefish stayed on the reef. Photo by Julie Morgan

Another Kind of Treasure Dive

Every dive or snorkel we do is a treasure dive, whether we see gold, an unusual animal, or an unusual behavior. All of those things — yes, including the gold — are easier to recognize when the diver has good buoyancy control.

A diver who's a little negatively or a little positively buoyant sinks or rises, so they compensate by putting a little air in or taking a little air out of their BCD (which is why it's called a buoyancy compensator device); once neutrally buoyant they can hover effortlessly and see everything.

Divers who are not neutrally buoyant can compensate in other ways, however, and these methods are far from effortless and thus use more air: kicking continuously to stay at the desired depth, and using their hands for sculling along. I remember, years ago, a diver telling me her buoyancy was fine on day dives but she felt hugely uncoordinated on night dives. It turned out she was overweighted and compensating with her hands in the daytime, without realizing it. At night, carrying a light, she couldn't use her hands, so she felt uncoordinated.

Anyone can inhale and exhale through a mouthpiece. The trickiest diving skill is good buoyancy control.

Without good buoyancy control, a diver sends waves of disturbance through the water. Fish have a sense organ called the lateral line, which enables them to feel those pressure waves in the water. Divers who move awkwardly send loud messages to fishes: FLEE! This is not what most divers want.

No diver I've ever seen has better buoyancy control than Julie Morgan, yes, our Julie of The Bonaire Reporter, carrying a relatively huge camera system on every

dive, yet moving the underwater equivalent of soundlessly. Julie was hovering at Lamachaca Reef when out of the corner of her eye she noticed a porcupinefish swimming toward her from about 6' (2m) away. As the fish got closer, she could see something black in its mouth, and it seemed to be trying to show the thing to Julie. The object turned out to be a snorkel keeper, of all things, the kind with a ring that goes around the snorkel and a slot for the mask strap. The ring had an opening to accommodate different sizes of snorkels, and the porcupinefish had gotten its lower jaw pinched between the two parts of the ring.

The porcupinefish couldn't swallow the keeper, probably a good thing, except that it couldn't swallow anything else, either. Since the ring was pushing against both the inside and the outside of the fish's lower jaw, the porcupinefish could not spit it out. In addition, the porcupinefish was young, so it was not strong enough to crush the hard plastic ring in its mouth,

The porcupinefish swam under a coral head, then turned to face Julie, who saw only one thing to do. Hovering, her left hand holding her camera system out of the way, with her right hand she reached out, oh so cautiously, toward the porcupinefish. The porcupinefish allowed Julie to seize the snorkel keeper by the slot, and she was able to pluck it right off! Julie gained a snorkel keeper and the porcupinefish was free of dive gear.

Who would have thought that such a simple piece of dive gear could be lethal?

Lessons from Julie:

First, better buoyancy control results in better everything.

Second, the more you know about the environment, the more you will recognize things that are not right.

The problem with recognizing something that's not right is that we don't always know how to deal with the situation. Picking up a snorkel keeper lying on the sand is pretty straightforward, but what if it's lying in a sponge formation,

Reef Glimpses
continued on page 17

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Van der Vaart receives high honor

Known as the ‘diver doctor’ for the last 40 years, Dick van der Vaart was awarded the high honor from the Netherlands as Officer in the Order of the Orange-Nassau at a surprise ceremony on May 21.

Friends and invited guests quietly gathered outside the Recompression Center where van der Vaart was involved with hyperbaric treatments. He was surprised to exit the clinic to find the group waiting for the medal ceremony.

According to van der Vaart, he had been briefed that something was happening but had told the organizers he was too busy. The doctor wasn’t completely surprised but he never expected to see the large group of friends and associates who turned up to witness the medal pinning by Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna.

General practitioner Gijs Koot, gynaecologist/diving physician Sylvia Dermout, house/diving physician Wil Cornelissen and SHF director Jan-Jaap Brandt Corstius

were responsible for submitting the information to the Netherlands for the honored medal. Sylvia Dermout, also a decorated Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau organized the ‘secret’ gathering.

Van der Vaart moved to Bonaire in 1983 to serve as a doctor but he was also a diver who loved ‘diver’s paradise.’

He began learning about diving medicine and did his first theoretical training with the Dutch Navy. In 1986 a Navy ship showed up with Bonaire’s first hyperbaric chamber and in 2008 a new facility was built with a new larger, modern chamber.

The hyperbaric clinic was not just for divers but also for wound treatment which began with the first patient in 1989.

Van der Vaart brought Bonaire’s diving industry to a new safety level with the recompression chamber and hyperbaric wound medicine. He is the initiator, founder



L: Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna and the newly designated Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau Dick van der Vaart

and director of the Foundation Recompression Chamber Bonaire. His work is linked to the quality of diving medicine, both in healthcare and in training doctors and nurses. His hyperbaric clinic has treated wound patients associated with diabetes, amputations and oncological wounds. It has prevented amputations.

Van der Vaart’s work is recognized not only in Bonaire and the Netherlands but in the U.S. and other parts of Europe.

With announcement of his retirement for Dec. 31, a search has begun for a doctor to step into his very large shoes to oversee the clinic. In the meantime van der Vaart will continue his teaching.

Following the medal ceremony, the group gathered at van der Vaart’s favorite bar, Mona Lisa, for a champagne toast and appetizers.

Photos and story Julie Morgan



A group of colleagues and friends gather to honor van der Vaart

Take a household vulnerability survey before June 3

Fill in an anonymous survey about your household on Bonaire for research about climate vulnerabilities and win great prizes.

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)’s research intern Nina Zander (Master’s student at the University of Utrecht) is researching how resilient households are to climate change vulnerabilities on Bonaire. Examples of such vulnerabilities are storms, floods, and droughts. To study this, Nina needs certain information from residents of Bonaire with a sédula.

The data set will also be added to the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database (<https://www.dcbd.nl/>). It is important to know that no identifiable data will be shared with anyone.

Survey

Please complete the online questionnaire before the 3rd of June. The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete. It is available in Papiamentu, English, Dutch and Spanish. Below you can find the link to the questionnaire in English.

https://survey.uu.nl/jfe/form/SV_556NucjpLPP2fki

Governor Rijna responds to press criticism

Governor Rijna, reacting to a critical opinion piece, has responded publicly and in writing to stories that *Bonaire.nu* and other media have published that are, in his words, “based on factual inaccuracies and use suggestive wording.” He said he felt compelled to set things straight. The following synopsis attempts to express the Governor’s message accurately and fairly.

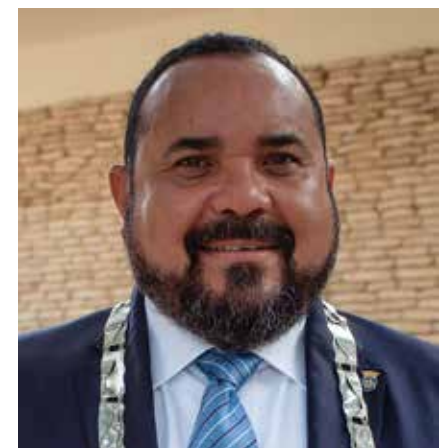
“I am reproached for regularly expressing my concerns about the impact that unbridled tourism growth has on our society I see it as a cry from the heart to the local politicians and stakeholders to protect our community against undesirable developments.

“In my role as Lieutenant Governor I cannot take [my personal] opinion into account I must be guided by the advice the civil services provide me The government must be predictable: citizens, entrepreneurs and investors must be able to trust in the fact that decision-making is not dictated by arbitrariness.

“[Regarding integrity issues] surrounding the Bonaire Holding Maatschappij I have ordered [two] investigations myself and I publicly announced the main results. The full investigation results were submitted to the Island Council in confidence. After that it was up to the Island Council - as the elected representative of the people - to decide which consequences would follow.

“The media have a responsibility to safeguard the democratic constitutional state, not to undermine it. In this case, the institution of Lieutenant Governor has been wrongly discredited and faith in democracy has been damaged unnecessarily. I hope that from now on the media will take these words to heart and that they will take their journalistic responsibility seriously when considering publishing these kinds of allegations.” DMR

See also: “New Sunset Beach building request splits Island Council,” page 2.



Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna

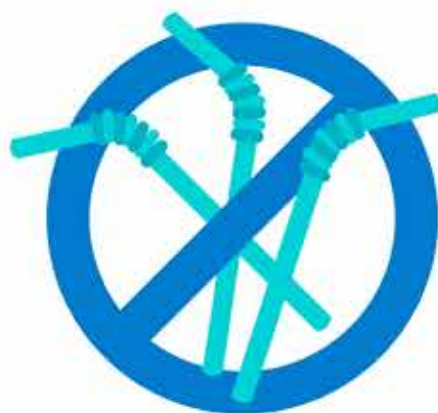
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Real estate tax assessments are coming

The Tax Office CN will send out the real estate tax assessments for 2021 this month.

Real estate tax is levied on owners of immovable properties such as a second home and company buildings on Bonaire, Saba, and Saint Eustatius. The property used by the owner as his or her main residence is exempt from real estate tax and is covered by the land tax. You can consult the tax office website for other exemptions.

The real estate tax rate is 17.5%. This rate is applied to a calculated income of 4% of the value of the immovable property. This means that the actual tax rate is 0.7% of the value of the immovable property.

Example 1:

Value of house USD 200,000. An exemption of USD 70,000 applies. The taxes are calculated based on an amount of USD 130,000. General taxes: 0.7% real estate tax = USD 910. Surtax amount (only on Bonaire) USD 273. The overall taxes in this year amount to USD 1,183.

For more information, please visit the website:

<https://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl/onderwerpen/vastgoedbelasting>

If the property concerns a hotel, the rate will be 10% and an effective tax rate of 0.4% is levied.

Example 2:

Value of hotel USD. 200,000. Hotel sector levy: 0.4% real estate tax = USD 800. Surtax amount (only on Bonaire) USD 240. The overall taxes in this year amount to USD 1,040.

Surtax on Bonaire

The real estate tax rate is increased by a surcharge of 30% for immovable properties on Bonaire for the benefit of the Public Entity of Bonaire.

Paying your taxes

The real estate tax assessment form states how you can pay. The assessment must be paid as a lump sum. If this leads to difficulties, you can agree on a payment plan with the recipient of the Tax Office CN.

TELBO – is not just the phone company



TELBO director Gregory Colina and Adely Susana-Jansen, director of BHM (Bonaire Holding Maatschappij)

In a presentation at the Marriott on May 19, TELBO not only announced their new telephone book but also the major steps they have made in digitalization in the past few years. Although TELBO is still the 'phone company' it has now developed into an access for all types of digital opportunities for users.

TELBO's director Gregory Colina led the event and introduced department heads who explained in 12 points how the company has evolved digitally.

Commerce Manager Phar Martha, Customer Relations manager Quenton Stroop and Marketing Manager Rein-

isha Marina explained some of the services: hospitality smart solutions, smart home solutions, high speed internet up to 500Mbps, medical domains for doctor/patient communication, IT management, Cloud PBX, tourist WiFi and more providing proof by example of application and usage.

Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna congratulated TELBO and was presented a new phone book by Marjolein Berghoizen. Guests received complimentary drinks, appetizers, a small gift and of course, a new TELBO phone book.

Story and photo Julie Morgan

Seahawk receives Voyager award



April 2020. Adam Alpert and his wife Gisela (center) and the Seahawk crew make life at Bonaire's Animal Shelter better. Photo Julie Morgan

While the yacht Seahawk was underway in May to the island of Fiji, the Boat International Neptune Awards ceremony in London announced that Seahawk had won the Judges' Special Neptune Voyager award. This award is given to the yacht with a special focus on "philanthropic aims" in the due course of conducting its mission.

"It wasn't the plan, but sometimes good things happen when you go off course," said Adam Alpert, owner of 60-metre sailing yacht Seahawk. Cruising the Caribbean, Seahawk was trapped in Bonaire with the island's ports closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Both animal lovers, Adam and his wife Gisela decided to make the most of their enforced stay and discovered an animal sanctuary in need of help. They promptly made a donation and got down to mixing concrete

and shoveling sand with their crew.

The couple's plan was to cruise for seven years, fulfilling a wish to assist marine science and coastal community welfare. So, after restrictions lifted they returned to the Caribbean, where a large donation was made to St Vincent's Health Authority. They went on to support YachtAid Global with aid in the Galápagos Islands and help marine conservationists Migramar in investigating pelagic migration patterns. The judges felt that the owners' philanthropic aims are outstanding and well worthy of a Special Award.

Adam Alpert said, "On behalf of Seahawk and her crew, we are honored to have received this award. A nice success. We also hope the acknowledgement serves to inspire other owners to consider similar altruistic projects as part of their yachting enterprise."

Thielman discusses cruise ship issues

In a press conference May 16, deputy Hennyson Thielman discussed the April 25-28 cruise summit in Miami. The Bonaire delegation, of which Thielman was a member, met with the major cruise ships that made port in Bonaire over the past years. The delegation discussed Bonaire's plans for a high quality, low quantity tourism strategy and the new head tax for cruise passengers. All cruise companies were on board with the new \$10 tax with no one canceling their schedule for Bonaire.

At the Miami cruise summit, the Dutch Caribbean cruise line discussed increasing nature, cultural trips on the island and their hope to contribute to Bonaire's nature organizations. There was no discussion regarding a new STINAPA nature fee for the passengers.

During the summit, Bonaire also spoke to smaller luxury and more environmental vessels like the Ritz Carlton Yacht, a

280 passenger cruise ship and the luxury Regency 17. Both have shown interest in Bonaire. Thielman explained many of the large cruise ship companies own the small lines.

In his May 16, 2022 review of cruise ship issues, Thielman said that although Bonaire promised the island a one ship per day limit, that could change. If a small ship is in port, the government could also allow a larger one.

Taxis and tour buses are still levying complaints that Bonaire seems to be discouraging cruise tourism but have chosen not to submit their financial data or numbers for Bonaire's tourism research. Tour prices are not government regulated, though the standard price is \$25 per person by the tour organization. The deputy said he was aware that some operators are charging less for some groups through bargaining.

Julie Morgan

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The Bonaire Reporter May 25 - June 8, 2022

Congratulations to Green Bikes



CEO of Tourism Corporation Bonaire officially opens Green Bikes: Photo: Julie Morgan

Green Bikes, Bonaire's first electric scooter rental store, officially opened for business on May 19.

A crowd of approximately 60 people gathered to check out the new electric bikes and enjoy drinks, cake and snacks.

After Tourism Corporation Bonaire CEO, Miles Mercera, cut the 'green' ribbon to mark the opening, a champagne toast was proposed. Mercera said he was

excited to hear about Green Bikes after reading the story in *The Reporter*. He added that this is the direction the island needs to be going and he hopes to see more electric transportation as it is perfect for Bonaire.

To continue the grand opening celebration, the owners are offering customers a digital 'spin the wheel' discount from May 23 - June 23. Green Bike renters

can win 5 - 25% discounts, free rentals for a day, three days or the big prize of a free full week.

To launch the first electric scooter store on the island owners Reiner Bijens, wife Mirjam Heijder and Rob and Diana Schokker along with Mercera took a quick celebratory 'green bike' ride.

Bijens and Schokker already have

plans for expanding Green Bikes.

Green Bikes is located at Julio A. Abraham Boulevard 13. The electric bike store is open six days a week Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m. Reservations can be made through Facebook, www.greenbikesbonaire.com and Whatsapp +599-795-0211.

Story and photos Julie Morgan



L-R: Reiner Bijens, Rob and Diana Schokker, Mirjam Heijder and Miles Mercera take a quick spin on the 'Green' bikes. Photo: Julie Morgan

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Banning single use plastics



Imarisha Hagens and Eva van Voskuijlen display banners announcing the Single Use Plastic Ban Photo: Julie Morgan

One week from today a milestone will be set in the war on single use plastic on Bonaire. Beginning June 1, the single use plastic ban takes effect on several one user, one-time plastic items: plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic cutlery, plastic drink stirrers and bioplastics. Foam/Styrofoam packaging will be added to the list on August 1. Anyone selling or giving away these products in supermarkets, restaurants, snacks or stores

could be fined or even do jail time.

This is just the first phase of the government's Bonaire Plastic Free Campaign headed up by a two-woman team of environmental policy advisor Eva van Voskuijlen since October 2020 and communications lead Imarisha Hagens who came on board

Single use plastics,
continued on page 15



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Only the lonely

These days the elderly are in the news a lot again.

Organizations that have their best interest in mind have done research and it looks like there are too many lonely elderly. These elderly often live alone because their spouse passed away. There are elderly who have families, but they don't seem to care. Of course, there are many elderly that are simply alone.

Often the lonely elderly are women, because it is known that in marriages the male spouse often passes away first.

Being a lonely elder myself, I know for a fact that being alone is not that bad. Especially when you are physically sound. It is even very nice sometimes. You can do what you want, when you want and have nobody to answer to.

Not enough food in the fridge or pantry is no problem.

You eat what is there, even if it means you eat peanut butter sandwiches every day. No fruit in the basket? Well, you drink lemonade till all the limes are gone.

You don't feel well? No problem, take it easy and sleep a little more. Wait till it passes. Don't feel like getting up? Well then sleep as long as you want.

Running out of medications? Stop taking them or take a bit less so they last longer.

An invitation to a bingo or the card game "Bon Ku n'e"? No, don't feel like it. It was no fun last time so now it will be the same.

Need to take a shower or brush your teeth? Too much trouble. Just use a wet washcloth and rinse the mouth with diluted mouthwash.

Watch a little TV? Maybe a novela, nothing else. If the TV works.... Paid the electricity bill? Did not feel like going out.....

When people do not see you around, they tend to forget about you. And this is how easy it is to become very lonely, depressed and forgotten.

I was very happy when I wrote about loneliness more than a year ago, concerned citizens read it and set up a buddy program for the elderly, where volunteers visit an

elderly person once a week. They have a little conversation, bring some nice treats like fruit and maybe even see to it that their medical issues are solved.

On Bonaire we have many organizations that cater to the elderly. We have a department for statistics, so it should be known how many Bonaire elderly there are. All those organizations should work together and set up special programs.

Not everybody likes to gather in groups, but every week should not be a problem. I know for a fact that Indebon offers physical fitness for elderly, and it is really great. You meet people, have fun and get out of the house. They also offer regular trips to the beaches on our island.

Investigate, get correct numbers and get to work. Find those that need urgent help. Offer what they need and give them the much needed attention they deserve.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Bonaire, a giant spa

How many friends or relatives do we have who live outside the island in different cities around the world? How many of them love to vacation in Bonaire? How many of them pay a good amount of dollars to come to enjoy the friendly nature and dive into the waters that surround the island? How many of those pay expensive memberships in their hometowns to enjoy a sports pool, either to practice swimming, aqua aerobics or for in-water rehabilitation?

We should question ourselves, having this giant spa around us, how many times do we visit it?

Sea water has many minerals such as magnesium, calcium, zinc, iron, iodine, potassium and of course sodium chloride. Soaking our bodies in these minerals has several benefits. In general terms, sea baths can help reduce stress, muscle tension and joint pain. If you wear a mask you have the extra enjoyment of watching the reef creatures, a privilege reserved to a lucky few.

Floating in salt water doesn't require much effort,

and while one floats the movements of the body are carried out gracefully and without fighting against the full force of gravity. Hydro gymnastics, aqua aerobics and rehabilitation programs in the water use the benefit of buoyancy to allow a whole range of movements that help make the spine more flexible, stretch muscles and tendons and lubricate joints with minimal risk.

Venous and lymphatic return are also facilitated by immersion in the sea. If you suffer from fluid accumulation in the legs, there is no better therapy than 30 minutes or more of enjoyment in the sea. For this reason, sea baths also prevent the formation of varicose veins in the legs.

When we go swimming, we also expose ourselves to the sun. When our skin is exposed to sunlight, it makes vitamin D from cholesterol. The sun's ultraviolet B (UVB) rays hit cholesterol in the skin cells, providing the energy for vitamin D synthesis to occur. Vitamin D is essential for fixing calcium in the bones and maintaining a strong immune system. Sun exposure is also essential to regulate the sleep-wake cycle, by telling our endocrine system which hormones to release to keep us awake during the day and which to release at sunset to induce sleep. Provided it is done rationally and gradually, sun exposure is an added benefit of this giant spa.

Some health conditions also benefit by immersion in

salt water, such as rheumatoid arthritis and some skin problems. Salt water is good for the skin in general, due to its antibacterial, healing and antifungal properties. Its iodine content strengthens the immune system and it is vital to keep a healthy thyroid.

Our ocean has almost no threats. There are no dangerous creatures except for the eventual jelly fish after a full moon. There are hardly ever strong currents, and when there is one, most of the times it is parallel to shore and this in general, is more of an inconvenience than a hazard. Only in the southernmost part of the island, the surface current created by the wind has occasionally posed a major threat to life, in most cases to divers not to swimmers. There are also many spots along the coast where we can enter the water without booties or reef walkers.

So, there are very few excuses that prevent us from enjoying this sometimes-luxurious saltwater bathtub, this huge swimming pool. On top of that, it is completely free for us Bonaireans!

Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

UPDATES FROM ECHO

Parrots and People

by Daria Taiakina and Caroline Walta

Preparing for next monitoring

In the photo to the right you can see Echo staff member, Wewe, helping us prepare for the nest monitoring season by holding lessons for high-school youth from "Jong Bonaire" on how to safely ascend and descend cliffs. Loras use cliff cavities for nesting, and it is important for us to track the numbers and health of lora babies as they hatch and grow. We also help the birds find more nesting spaces by removing invasive Africanized honey bees from the same cavities.

The lessons were fun and one of the youths is already prepared to participate in the real thing! Some of the other youths need more practice to gain their confidence in climbing and rappelling, as it can be dangerous and requires patience and attention to detail. Despite that, we can tell these youths are enthusiastic to learn, they ask a lot of great questions and participate energetically.

In the past, international experts living abroad have had to come to Bonaire to help Echo with nest monitoring activities. With these lessons, we aim to establish a group of proficient climbers and abseilers here on Bonaire and that will be able to carry out nest monitoring activities independently. We hope that in the future, it



will be other organizations reaching out to Echo for support with nest monitoring, which will provide the local youth with opportunities for conservation work abroad.

The love story continues

If you read our updates from the last couple of months, you know of Popje and Pinda's blooming relationship. They now have a nest box and spend lots of time inside it, cuddling and preening. They were in a lovers' paradise, until they were joined by a Lora in the neighboring aviary.

A new lora was brought to Echo by a good Samaritan, for rehabilitation and release. This new lora was ringed and therefore a past Echo resident that had been released back into the wild. Unfortunately, at some point after release, this lora was illegally recaptured to be kept as a pet. And in full circle, it made its way back to Echo again.

Loras brought to Echo are monitored, rehabilitated, and released when the bird is ready to be back in the wild. When the lora is first brought to Echo, it has to be kept separate from the other resident loras, to ensure that any diseases the bird might be carrying do not get spread among the rest of the flock. Additionally, the bird must

Parrots & People, continued on page 15

Consideration given to regulating housing prices

Ben Oleana, director of Fundashon Cas Bonariano, has asked the OLB to consider regulating the housing market on Bonaire and to create a public housing fund to tackle the rising housing shortage. It is becoming increasingly difficult for local house hunters in both the lower and middle markets to find suitable and affordable housing.

The Executive Council responded positively to Oleana's call. "Thank you for your initiative," Island Governor Edison Rijna said on behalf of the BC. "It is taken from the heart and comes at the right time."

See the letter and response on page 5.
DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Eggs cost more

The price of a dozen eggs has gone up by 75 cents temporarily while the OLB determines the cost trend of egg production since 2017. The egg producers have been selling at the same price since 2017 despite steep increases in production costs. In three months a new price will be set that takes into account the producer's costs of doing business. DMR

Bonaire's Galileo operations to start in 2024

The Galileo Sensor Station (GSS) planned for Bonaire is scheduled to begin operations early in 2024. Galileo is Europe's Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). On May 10th the necessary "Administrative Cooperation Agreement" was signed between the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and the European Union Agency for the Space Program

Single use plastics, from page 1

in April 2021. The totally invested team are working to bring awareness and drive information to the public. In January they set things in motion by sending out letters and putting together a webinar for stakeholders advising them of the June 1 and August 1 bans.

The move on banning single use plastics began in December 2018 when Bonaire Island Council member Renata Domacasse led an unanimously approved motion. In July 2019 a letter of intent was signed with the Dutch government for funding. In September, OLB (Openbaar Lichaam) worked together with Sharon Bol of Beyond Plastics (initiative of WWF, Neth). to set up meetings with concerned stakeholders including Van den Tweel, Pieters, Firgos, Chinese Association, restaurants, TCB and customs. All were willing to comply and invest in sustainable alternatives of which many had already researched.

It wasn't until September 2020 things began rolling again with a Sushi or Dushi poster campaign targeting single use plastics. Neighboring islands Saba and St. Eustatius passed bans in January and April 2021 respectively. Bonaire was still not there but on October 19, 2021 the ban was finally approved.

Concerns have been voiced regarding alternative solutions to replace the products but many of the stores have already taken action on several of the banned items. Many vendors have already done away with plastic bags for consumers by simply replacing them with more permanent bags made of cloth or other non-plastic alternatives. Some restaurants have swapped straws, drink stirrers and some cutlery with environmental products made of wood or bamboo and a few vendors are boxing up takeaway in cardboard or paper bags.

(EUSPA). The Agreement defines roles and responsibilities, and costs and planning, the two agencies will share. Governor of Bonaire Edison Rijna attended the signing via an online connection. DMR

Papiamentu-language chef training still held up in parliament

The House of Representatives has again postponed consideration of the bill that would allow the Bonaire School Community to offer the MBO-3 chef training in Papiamentu as well as Dutch, according to the Kingdom Relations File.

Initially the law was scheduled for routine passage at the beginning of December. At the last minute the VVD wanted a debate. Repeated delays followed until last month when the VVD – again at the last minute – blocked a vote by demanding a reopening of the debate. The debate was scheduled for May 19 but got bumped by an emergency debate regarding Prime Minister Rutte erasing text messages from his phone.

Consideration of the Education Act must now be re-scheduled. If the approval (including the Senate vote) is not passed before the summer recess, the introduction of the Papiamentu-language chef training course will be delayed by one school year. DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

JIF peanut butter maybe contaminated with salmonella

The U.S. Center for Disease Control has warned that JIF brand peanut butter should not be sold, used or eaten because it maybe contaminated with the Salmonella bacteria. Specifically, the danger is associated with U.S. manufactured JIF bearing the 7-digit codes 1274425 to 2140425. DMR

Bioplastics containers which were originally thought to be better are just another type of plastic and can't be disposed of in nature. They require a different type of recycling process than traditional plastics which is problematic.

Styrofoam is one of the worst types of plastics on the ban. It is considered a possible human carcinogen. When used in packaging the chemical can leach into the food especially if heated. When created Styrofoam has been found to contain 57 harmful chemical byproducts that are released into the air impacting the ozone layer and climate change. Unfortunately, the Styrofoam ban is delayed to August 1 to allow vendors to use up any product they have remaining.

Hygiene, medical or food security plastics may not be suitable for a ban. Sustainable or reusable alternatives are being considered for these types of single use plastics in the future.

Single use plastic bottles may eventually be included in another phase of the ban. Two policy tools on plastic bottles have to be considered by the stakeholders, which could be either banning or creating a deposit type system.

"There is a lot to consider if you ban a product. We are working on a second list that will be added to the ban," said Eva. "The timetable after June 1 is to inform everyone. We hope the awareness will stimulate a change of behavior. We need to ease the island into the idea and people will be more aware."

After June 1, if you witness a vendor giving away or selling any single use plastics on the ban please report to the supervision and enforcement department at bisami_th@bonairegov.com. Julie Morgan

For more information, contact

Email: plasticvrij@bonairegov.com

www.bonairegov.com for more information.



OLB's accounting department presents the 2021 financial statements. Photo OLB

OLB makes major progress in finance reporting and implementation

The auditor has issued an unqualified auditor's report for the fairness and regularity of the financial statements for 2021, the OLB's first. The only disclaimer resulted from uncertain comparison data from 2020 that were due to problems that were subsequently corrected. The OLB remains committed to submitting a complete and unqualified auditor's report for 2022.

The uncertainties identified in the 2020 audit report with regard to the valuation of investments, participations, and revenues have been resolved in the 2021 financial year. The tax receivables have been valued and the uncertainties in the income from ground lease, pilotage, mooring fees and surcharges were eliminated before 2021. The OLB's participations such as WEB, BOG, OTB, BIA, OBNA have been correctly valued, and the solvency of the OLB is good. The resistivity is above the norm. The OLB has a sufficiently healthy financial position and is therefore in a good position to absorb any future setbacks. DMR

Parrots & People, continued from page 14

be monitored for its health and treated when necessary.

Because of limited aviary space, we placed the recaptured lora in the empty aviary next to the lovers, Poppe and Pida, and they were not happy! The couple made a lot of noise and angry displays to let their neighbor know that they did not want him around. We did our best to provide the couple privacy and shield the newcomer from their anger by putting up curtains and branches as blinds for them to hide. Luckily, their neighbor made a quick recovery and was ready for release back into the wild after only three days. Hopefully the released lora has a partner waiting for him to get back to and they breed this coming summer!

Education for kids

In the first half of May, we had two great educational events for kids. Pelikaan Basis school groups 3A and 3B came to Echo on May 4 to learn about nature and conservation. The students had a fan-tastic morning led by the Echo Team, filled with activities related to growing and planting out trees for reforestation and other conservation projects. A very big thank you to Basis school De Pelikaan and the students, we hope to see them again soon!

If you are interested in organizing similar activities with Echo for your school/group, contact us through email at info@echobonaire.org!

To learn more about Echo, parrots, people, and plants, please check out our website www.echobonaire.org and join our Face-book page for the latest updates.



Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

Beach Tennis Bonaire can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact us via phone 796 2819 or email peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.

Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program gives a presentation at Yellow Submarine every Monday 7:30 p.m.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m.



BONAIRE CULINAIR has begun. The best restaurants of Bonaire are presenting a new edition of Bonaire Culinaire. The event began on May 19 and ends on June 2. This 15-day event is the perfect opportunity to discover the wide variety of restaurants the island has to offer.

The participating restaurants, lunchrooms and food trucks have put together a menu for a fixed price. Restaurants offer a three-course menu for \$33. A two-course lunch costs \$22 in the lunchrooms and food trucks offer a food truck special for \$11. Bonaire Culinaire is a great opportunity to enjoy unique dining experiences all over the island.

Bonaire Culinaire is an initiative of the Culinary Committee, supported by the Bonaire Restaurant Association (BRA), Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Bonhata and made possible in part by The Cadushy Distillery.

Bonaire Culinaire offers restaurants, lunchrooms and food trucks the opportunity to present their business card to the islanders and visitors."

During the event, visitors can win several great prizes, such as a bottle of Rom Rincón, a BBQ Night for two at Rum Runners or a day of chilling under the cabana by the pool at Hillside... and much more. For more information & participating restaurants, visit www.bonaire-culinaire.com or visit the Facebook page 'BonaireCulinaireEvent' or Instagram @bonaireculinaire.

INTERESTED IN BONAIRE'S GEOLOGY?

Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology. How was the island formed and when? What is the composition of the island's topographical structures? Is Bonaire a volcanic island?

All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by André Nahr.

The class will be held on Tuesday 7, Thursday 9 and Saturday 12 in June. Sessions 1 and 2 are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session 3 brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested, but there is no heavy hiking. The class is taught in English and will be held at DCNA, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid 56.

Cost is \$105.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session.

Please sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com, but don't wait too long, only 15 spots are available.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn Bonaire's fascinating geology.

International Flights to Bonaire

Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM connects daily through Aruba arriving Bonaire 20:50. Departure 22:05 TUI Fly direct flights will start in March 2022. Now connecting Sat through Aruba and M. W. Th. F. Sun. through Curaçao. Times vary in afternoon and evening.
Brussels (BRU) Starting Nov. 4	Air Belgium starting in November will fly twice weekly F. Sun. Arrive Bonaire 15:05. Return departure 16:05. The triangle flight makes Bonaire the first stop from Brussels then carries on to Curaçao: BRU-BON-CUR-BRU
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta Four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat. Arriving 14:44. Return departure 16:09 From April 10th through June Delta will fly twice weekly: Tues. Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American During March and April American will be offering daily flights to Bonaire from Miami, Florida. Arriving 14:30. Departure 15:37.
Houston (IAH) & New York (EWR)	United Sat. from Houston arrive 15:53 depart 14:40. Sat from New York Newark Liberty International arrive 15:53 depart Sun. 06:03.
Toronto (YYZ & YTZ)	Pearson International (YYZ) Seven routes with one connection via: Aruba; Miami; Punta Cana; Atlanta; Curaçao, New York; Huston. Billy Bishop (YTZ) One route with one connection via New York (EWR)

What's Happening

Bonaire Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. Weekly schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. For persons older than 18 years a membership costs \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and nonfiction can be found on www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9-4

Washington Slagbaai: Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.)

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): Pakus is back open, regular hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Masks required indoors, social distancing.

May 19-June 2	Bonaire Culinaire Participating restaurants, lunchrooms and foodtrucks will offer diners a three-course dinner for \$33; a two-course lunch for \$22 and a foodtruck special for \$11. For more information visit: https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Thursday, May 26	Ascension Day. Public holiday. Offices & services closed.
Saturday, May 28	Bario Festival Nikiboko 5 - 10 p.m. Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products
Thursday, June 2	Last day to fill in DCNA's survey. See page
Sunday, June 5	Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-A-Thon Begins 5 a.m. at the White Slave Huts. Ends at Pasadia Karino Rincon. Tickets \$15. Includes: T-Shirt, water, fruit, and a small breakfast at finish line. See page
Saturday, June 11	Taste of Bonaire 2022 (Talent Edition) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Sunday, June 12	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
June 14 - 17	Bonaire Rum Week. Opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition, a rum-soaked lunch, a juicy rum Happy Hour; a multi-course culinary experience combined with rum, followed by a rum-and-cigar combination event. For the most up-to-date information, schedule, events and partners, visit: www.bonaierumweek.com

Tentative cruise ship schedule June

DAY & DATE:	DD/MM	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Tuesday	14-06	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	3938	RCCL/CEL
Thursday	23-06	<i>Mariner of the Seas</i>	0700-1400	4001	RCCL/CEL

Here comes the hurricane season

The new hurricane season, June 1 to November 30, is expected to be more active than in previous years.

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) provides information on how to prepare against hurricanes in a brochure and via the website <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/>. The brochure also describes what the OLB does during a hurricane and contains the emergency number people can call. Anyone can view and download the hurricane brochure on OLB's website under the button labeled 'Residents and disaster relief.'

Bonaireans can also download the app 'Disasterprep Bonaire' from the App Store and Google Play. The app tells how to prepare for various disasters, what assistance the OLB provides, and how to



get information if a disaster strikes. The OLB can also send important messages to all users of the app.

The OLB disaster management team activates the police, fire brigade, physicians and public health services to counter dangers during and after a hurricane or tropical storm. The OLB also provides shelters for people who must leave their homes to seek safety. *DMR*

Trouble finding a printed copy of The Reporter?
Read us online! <https://bonairereporter.com>

Boatmaster Grade III Bonaire training comes to Bonaire



Shelly Craig (author), Jurien Ascension, Yuri van Kampen, Walter Huszar, Michelle Gottschlich MD, Nicole Madlener (instructor). Photo Credit: Nicole Madlener

The Inaugural Boatmaster III course on Bonaire was held May 9-14. The new course provides education to comply with the amendment regulation of the Seafarers Regulation directed at commercial shipping for the BES islands. Other than cargo ships this applies to passenger ships that, aside from transporting passengers, are used for commercial water-sports activities such as line fishing, diving activities and boat tours. The occupational requirements are based on the Small Commercial Vessel (SCV) Code applicable in the Caribbean region.

Walbootsman Nicole Madlener, Captain of the Pilot vessel "Velos" is the Boatmaster instructor with De Ruyter

Training and Consultancy. The course is six days of theoretical instruction and practical exams and costs \$850. The core of the course focuses on regulations for preventing collision at sea, passenger safety, emergency situations, seamanship, boat handling, engineer knowledge, pollution prevention and legal responsibilities.

Koert Heidergott SICN (shipping inspectorate Caribisch Nederland) and Alex Van Roon (Pilot), assisted Walbootsman Madlener with exercises throughout the week which made for an extremely authentic and professional experience.

I feel fortunate to have been a participant in the first graduating class. It is tru-

ly a first class course filled with theory and plenty of hands on experience in the field. Introduction to navigation-chart plotting, fire-fighting, man-over-board and abandon ship drills in the sea and boat handling are included.

Fellow classmate perspectives:

Yuri van Kampen, Captain and owner of "Bonaire Big Game Fishing", states; "Finally being able to follow the course on Bonaire made all the difference to me. I liked the class aspect of the course interaction between our instructor and all students whilst she explained. The different topics were evenly addressed and enough time was taken for explanation and questions. Nicole, (Walbootsman Madlener) is a natural born teacher and did an awesome job to help us understand by visualizing topics with video presentations. I can safely say that before this course I was less aware and now feel more knowledgeable. I hope that more will follow this course. It is getting busier on the water every day and the more aware people are, the safer it will be for all."

Fellow graduate, Walter Huszar, adds "The course provided my wife, Michelle and I an eye opening experience! Both in the scope and depth of information covered. The class format allowed for the exchange and expansion of information that can and will only help to keep the growing commercial and I dare say the pleasure boating community safe. The instructor was professional, and most

enjoyable! Having attended many training formats I have only positive marks to give."

The requirements needed to acquire the Boatmaster III license from the Harbourmaster in addition to the Certificate of Proficiency BMIII are: certificate for VHF operation, and a valid medical fitness certificate from local doctor to work on board a ship. One must be over the age of 18. License renewal after three years with doctors' medical statement and statement of sailing time (45 hours in three years) follows.

The Boatmaster III license is the entry level and used for the local coastal waters of Bonaire. Boatmaster II and I are required for larger vessels calling on foreign ports of call. Those courses will follow soon. The next classes are being offered June 3-18 with 15 seats available. Contact "De Ruyter Training and Consultancy" for schedule. Email: caribbean@drtc.nl Web: <https://drtc.nl/en>

As of January 1, 2022 the new Seafarers regulation came into force. The implication of this new regulation for the Annex 6 vessels is the requirement for a Boatmaster grade 3 license. This requirement has a three year phase in period. That means that from January 1, 2025 every Annex 6 vessel needs to have, at least, one person with a Boatmaster grade 3 license onboard. The new regulation is published in The Government Gazette and available on the Internet.

Shelly Craig

Reef Glimpses *continued from page 8*

or on a gorgonian? Can you take it without hurting anything?

Most dive training organizations teach students and instructors to touch nothing in the underwater environment. This easy rule is effective (most of the time) in keeping divers from injuring coral, but sometimes it prevents divers from helping coral and other reef inhabitants. If you would like to become a more proactive diver and learn how you can help reef inhabitants, we can dive together and do a little straightening up. I make this offer as the author of PADI's first Underwater Naturalist text (The Gentle Sea), and the creator of the Bonaire Harbour Healing Project. The fee is nominal: help me with my tank, and spot irregularities on the reef. Send an email to dee@touchthesea.com and we'll schedule a dive.

We might not reach Julie's level of buoyancy control, but we're sure to create some treasured memories.

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef (for children)*; in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Cor-



The porcupinefish's lower jaw was caught in the opening of this keeper. Photo Julie Morgan

al Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." The *Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through touchthesea.com.

Bonaire's Library welcomes 3,800th member



Misorgia and Elisabeth Veldbloem Photo: OLB

The membership of the Bonaire Public Library is increasing. Elisabeth Veldbloem has been welcomed as its 3,800th member.

After registering, Elisabeth received her login details for the online library. In addition to borrowing physical books, members also have immediate access to online digital and audio books.

Library services are also increasing. Services will be further expanded in the

fields of activities and digitization.

To become a member of the Bonaire Public Library, you can visit the library at Kaya Gramel z/n or call 715 5344. Membership up to 18 years is free. For members over the age of 18, a membership costs \$6 per year. The Bonaire Public Library invites everyone to become a member and wishes its members a lot of reading pleasure.

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Pets of the Week

Grannie



is. It's free!

You are very welcome to come and meet all my friends and of course, I will greet you myself.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

For free sterilization contact Klinika Veterinario, 717-4255, to make an appointment and just tell the vet you are taking advantage of the FREE program. The vet is located at Kaminda Lagun 26 next to the Shelter. If you are trying to help curtail Bonaire's feral felines population, the clinic can loan you a safe trap to capture the cat for sterilization. Donations to the sterilization fund are welcome.

This little lady is Candice. She's about 8 months old and is still very petit. We think she won't be a very big cat when she's an adult.

Candice is very talkative. When you enter the cat palace she will probably welcome you with some warm meows. Did you know that cats primarily only meow for humans? Communication with other cats take place via body language.

Candice loves people and other cats. If you think you can love her then she's ready for you to adopt her.

She's tested FIV/L negative, is sterilized, has all her vaccinations and will be chipped the moment you decide to take this little lady home with you.

Story Monique Degenaar,

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Candice

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment, also via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



L-R: Jane Disko

Sanne Attevelt

Monique Degenaar

Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

LOOKING FOR A PART TIME JOB WITH MEANING?

Get paid to help save lives!

Animal Shelter Bonaire needs a Shelter Assistant

Monday through Friday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. (10 hours per week)

\$6.25 per hour

Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Good people skills
- Resident of Bonaire with valid sedula
- Able to read basic English
- Willing to learn about animal care
- Students are welcome to apply if 16 years or older

Responsibilities include:

Assist care giver staff with afternoon duties including: Walking dogs; grooming dogs and cats (brushing, nail clipping, etc.); refilling water bowls; feeding pups and others if needed; check cats for water, food; help with medications; prepare kennels for overnight; check and clean kennels as needed; giving extra love and attention to all the dogs and cats.

If you are interested please email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com with your C.V. for an interview appointment. DO NOT RESPOND VIA FACEBOOK OR MESSENGER.

Royal Decoration Commission asks for nominations

The Royal Decoration Commission asks for that the members of Bonaire's community submit names of residents to be considered for a Royal Decoration for the year 2023. The deadline submitting proposals for 2023 is the end of June 2022.

When is someone eligible for an award?

It is important that the work the person has done has benefited the community. So it should not only be relevant for the organization for which the person works, but also for society. The contribution may be through volunteer work or paid work. Volunteers who tirelessly contribute to an organization for 15 years or longer in areas such as youth, the elderly, the economy, sports, culture, art, religion, nature or public order can receive an award. Someone who delivers an exceptional performance at his/her job may also be eligible for an award.

Persons nominated from Bonaire must be residents of Bonaire. If you want to nominate someone who is not registered on Bonaire, please contact the committee in advance to discuss the correct procedure in good time.

The procedure

To submit a proposal, you must complete a form saying why the person should be eligible for an award. Details of the person and references must also

be entered. The request is submitted to the Bonaire Decoration Committee, which consists of Lucia Anthony, Jeaninne Wong Loi Sing, Mary Tjin Asjoe, Ada de Palm and Robert Sances. They will continue to work on the nomination in collaboration with the Cabinet of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Island Governor then sends the proposal with his advice to the Kingdom Representative. The Kingdom Representative sends the decoration proposal with his advice and the advice of the Lieutenant Governor to the Chapter for the Civil Orders. On the basis of the recommendations, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations decides whether an award will be awarded. If that is the case, the Minister will make a nomination to His Majesty the King.

To nominate someone

If you know someone you would like to nominate for an award, you can download the form at www.bonairegov.com. For more information and details on how to complete the form, please call Ms Lucia Anthony at 777 4202, Ms Mary Tjin Asjoe at 770 7603, Ms Ada de Palm at 777 1149 or Ms Jeaninne Wong Loi Sing at 786 8549. You can also send an email to

decorationcommissiebonaire@gmail.com.

Support the people of Ukraine through a donation to one of these organizations or other verified charities.

With Ukraine (withukraine.org)

Voices of Children (voices.org.ua/en/)

UNCHR Refugee Agency

(donate.unrefugees.org.uk/)

UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org)

World Vision (worldvision.org)

Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org)

Giro 555 (giro555.nl)



Glass crusher arrives

In The Reporter's July 8, 2019 issue focusing on Selibon we announced the waste management company would soon be turning Bonaire's mountains of glass into roads and sidewalks thanks to a glass crusher. After a few delays the machinery is finally here. It will be installed and in service in the coming weeks.

The long-awaited machine crushes glass bottles, jars, etc. into different size pieces from sand sized grains to larger chunks similar to diabase.

Currently Selibon collects glass in a specialized 'for glass only' vehicle and then transports it to a storage area at the processing center at Lagun. Now the collected glass can be processed immediately and used as an additive in construction, asphalt or as a kind of diabase.

An analysis has shown that 20% of home and business waste is glass. In 2020 and 2021 Selibon collected a total of 2200 tons of glass. The glass collected at the waste disposal sites over the years is approximately 15,000 tons.

The Reporter will provide an update once the new 'crusher' is in service.

Julie Morgan



Mountains of glass bottles were stored in a big pile at the waste management company in July 2019.



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

- For any inquiries of your Cargo(arrival / invoices / payments), please call or e-mail us at 717-8922 / info@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com and avoid visiting our offices unnecessarily.
- Kindly pay your invoices through online banking and please e-mail proof of remittance to frontdesk@rocargo.com
- Pickup & Deliveries are on appointment, for arrangements please call or e-mail us at warehouse@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com (use both e-mails)

